



John Arrigo  
Administrator  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Enforcement Division  
1520 E. Sixth Avenue  
P. O. Box 200901  
Helena, Montana 59620-0901

April 18, 2008

VIA HAND DELIVERED

Re: 2008 Cleaning and Demolition Project, Asarco East Helena Plant  
Response to State of Montana and EPA Comments, April 9, 2008 Letter

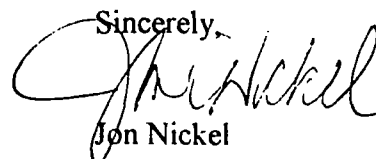
Dear Mr. Arrigo:

On March 12, 2008, Asarco submitted the 2008 Cleaning and Demolition Project Work Plan that described the management activities for calendar year 2008. On April 15, 2008, Asarco received Iver Johnson's April 9, 2008 letter that contained both the State of Montana and EPA comments on the Work Plan. I have attached Asarco's responses to above referenced comments. Once the Department approves Asarco's responses, Asarco will provide the Department with revised replacement pages to the original Work Plan that reflect the agreed upon modifications.

As stated in our previous correspondence, Asarco intends to begin the work outlined in the 2008 Cleaning and Demolition Project no later than June 11, 2008. Asarco is awaiting EPA review and approval of Asarco's February 2008 Interim Measure Addendum Work Plan. The completion schedule for the two Work Plans directly support each other and must be implemented collectively to achieve prescribed objectives. If final approval of both Work Plans is not obtained by May 1, 2008, Asarco cannot, in a timely manner, proceed with its overall described program and will need to work with both agencies to change the Work Plans, accordingly.

We look forward to working with the Department as we proceed with the project. If you should have any questions regarding this Project, please contact me at 227-4529.

Sincerely,



Jon Nickel

Enclosure  
Cc: RCRA Project Manager

**2008 ASARCO CLEANING AND DEMOLITION PROJECT  
INTRODUCTION, PROJECT SUMMARY, AND REPORTING**

**MDEQ/EPA PLAN REVIEW COMMENTS**

Comment 1 - (Page 2 of 9 - Para 2): The implementation of the 2008 Cleaning and Demolition Project Work Plan, in accordance with Montana's 2007 Administrative Order on Consent (AOC), is not dependent upon EPA's approval of the final capping plan. The Department understands that an e-mail was sent to Asarco from EPA on March 18, 2008, informing them that Asarco should plan on installing temporary caps for areas demolished in 2008. Asarco/URS Corporation should adhere to the 2008 Cleaning and Demolition Project Construction Schedule as outlined in Attachment B.

Response: EPA communicated to Asarco that placement of an interim measures Cover System was premature until the phase 2 RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) and Risk Assessment (RA) was complete. EPA committed to responding to Asarco's February 13, 2008 Cover System Design Analysis submittal through a yet-to-be received formal letter. Accordingly, the 2008 Cleaning and Demolition Work Plan will employ the use of temporary liners in the footprints exposed by the Project. As stated in Asarco's March 12, 2008 letter to the Department, the completion schedule for the 2008 Cleaning and Demolition Work Plan and the February 2008 Interim Measures Addendum Work Plan must be implemented collectively to achieve prescribed objectives. Asarco cannot begin the work outlined in the 2008 Cleaning and Demolition Project until EPA's approval of the February 2008 Interim Measures Addendum Work Plan. If final approval of both of the Work Plans is not obtained by May 1, 2008, Asarco cannot proceed with the overall described program and will need to work with both agencies to change the Work Plans, accordingly.

Comment 2 - (Page 2 of 9 and 4 of 9, and Page 16 of 23): EPA has not approved implementation of the February 13, 2008 Cover System Design Report and has directed the company to install temporary covers over the demolition footprint areas, as necessary during the 2008 demolition season.

Response: See response to comment 1.

Comment 3 - (Page 3 of 9 - Para 1): Previous clean-up and demolition plans submitted to Department list an Alternate A and Alternate B table of structures that are scheduled to be cleaned and demolished for the year. Please provide and update section 2.0 to reflect Alternate A & B structures to be cleaned and demolished in 2008.

Response: Section 2.0 lists the principle structures that are scheduled for cleaning and demolition in calendar year 2008. This list does not include every specific or individual structure. Each of the scheduled structures are described in absolute detail within the Attachment A, Sheets 8 through 12 of the Work Plan.

Comment 4 - (Page 4 of 9 – Para 2): Please specify what remaining features/structures (interior walls, footings, existing foundations, etc.) will not be removed and be brought to grade.

Response: The 2008 Cleaning and Demolition Project will not involve the removal of surface slabs, floors, or footings or the removal of subsurface walls, partitions, or similar structures. Asarco cannot specifically identify these remaining structures until encountered during the cleaning and demolition phase of the project. The last paragraph of Section 4.2 further describes the management of structures that may be encountered during the Project.

Comment 5 - (Page 5 of 9 – Para 2): Please specify what remaining features/structures (interior walls, footings, existing foundations, etc.) will not be removed and be brought to grade.

Response: See response to comment 4.

Comment 6 - (Page 5 of 9, Section 4.4, and Page 17 of 23): It is recommended that the temporary covers be anchored with something more sturdy than sand bags.

Response: The industry standard and Asarco's own liner experts (Northwest Lining and Geotextile Products, Inc.) prescribe the use of sand bags for anchoring temporary liners, both along the liner perimeter and within the liner interior. Sand bags are the one type of anchoring system that offers appreciable weight that will not damage the liner. Sand bags adapt to the liner and sub grade contours while still having a high weight to volume ratio. Northwest Lining and Geotextile Products, Inc. has successfully used sand bags to anchor liners on landfills and other similar projects. Asarco has learned through past experience that treated lumber anchored with lag bolts is ineffective in securing the liner perimeter. Asarco requests that the Department share with us any alternate anchoring system more sturdy than sand bags.

2008 CLEANING AND DEMOLITION PROJECT  
URS CORPORATION WORK PLAN

MDEQ/EPA PLAN REVIEW COMMENTS

Comment 1 - (Page 1 of 23 – Para 3): See the Department's comments above concerning Page 3 of 9 from the Introduction, Project Summary and Reporting Plan.

Response: See previous responses to Asarco Work Plan.

Comment 2 - (Page 6 of 23): Section 1.6, Temporary Conveyance Systems for Surface Water, please identify which existing collection trenches and sumps will be used during decon activities. The contractor should ensure that any collected solids are removed at the conclusion of the 2008 season. Asarco should ensure that their wastewater permit allows treatment of this contaminated water.

Response: The conveyance systems used to collect project decon water will include, but not limited to those features generally located in the vicinity of Asarco's waste water treatment and the on-site car wash facilities. The solids collected in Asarco's conveyance systems will be managed in accordance with applicable rules and regulations to include Asarco's Montana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit. Asarco's current MPDES permit, March 2001 MPDES permit renewal application, and April 2007 update to it's March 2001 MPDES permit renewal application (Department action pending) list Upper Lake and City of East Helena water as operations contributing flow to Asarco's waste water treatment plant effluent, both of which may be used for decon of project equipment. The MPDES permit allowed for the treatment of decon equipment wash water during plant operations. The MPDES permit provides for this same treatment during the cleaning and demolition activities.

Comment 3 - (Page 6 of 23): Section 2.0, the text should indicate where the universal wastes, PCB and non-PCB ballasts and mercury containing equipment will be stored and who will inspect and dispose of it.

Response: Section 7.3 (Page 21 of 23) states that "URS/CWC anticipates using the Direct Smelt Building or Shop Storage Building for the storage of containerized hazardous waste and Universal Wastes". If encountered during the Project, Asarco anticipates storing PCB and non-PCB ballasts and mercury containing equipments at the same locations. Asarco will be responsible for inspection and proper management of these wastes.

Comment 4 - (Page 7 of 23): In the second full paragraph, demolition of the flues is being conducted pursuant to a separate work plan, so an explanation here of how that "cohesive area unit with like contamination" will be addressed would be beneficial or remove this reference to the flue. Last paragraph, this should be removed from this work plan and included in the EPA flue demolition work plan, including special pre-cleaning procedures.

Response: Asarco will indicate the cleaning and demolition of the flues are subject to EPA approval of Asarco's February 2008 Interim Measures Addendum Work Plan.

Comment 5 - (Page 8 of 23): Section 2.2, the text should specify where the 55-gallon drums of sludge removed by triple-rinsing of the acid tanks will be disposed. This waste should be tested for pH and neutralized if necessary. In addition, the Department has concerns on how characteristic corrosive wastes such as iron sulfates from the acid plant pump tank building floor or other locations will be handled. Asarco should elaborate on how this waste will be treated prior to disposal, including provisions to prevent releases during storage and transportation.

Response: Asarco intends to place wastewater removed from the flushing of previously cleaned acid storage tanks into Asarco wastewater treatment plant. Testing of pH and neutralization is not necessary since Asarco's wastewater treatment plant is designed to treat low pH liquids. Asarco will manage wastes generated from the acid plant in accordance with those procedures currently described in Section 5 (Demolition Activities) and Section 6 (Dust Control Plan) of the Work Plan.

Comment 6 - (Page 8 of 23): Section 2.2, Asarco should confirm that their wastewater treatment system permit allows acceptance of the cleaning and washing waters from the acid tanks.

Response: See response to comment 2. The MPDES permit allowed for the treatment of cleaning and washing of acid tanks during plant operations. The MPDES permit provides for this same treatment during the cleaning and demolition activities.

Comment 7 - (Page 8 of 23): Section 2.4, Removal of Oils from Site Equipment (if Discovered), the text should indicate where the removed oils will be stored and labeled and who will be responsible for ultimate disposal.

Response: Section 7.3 (Page 21 of 23) states that "URS/CWC anticipates using the Direct Smelt Building or Shop Storage Building for the storage of containerized hazardous waste and Universal Wastes". If encountered, Asarco anticipates storing oils from site equipment at these same locations. Asarco will be responsible for inspection, labeling, and management of these materials.

Comment 9 - (Page 13 of 23): The baghouse flue and monier flue demolition are subject to the EPA work plan and descriptions of their demolition should be removed from this plan.

Response: The Work Plan will indicate that the blast furnace and Monier flue cleaning and demolition are subject to EPA approval of Asarco's February 2008 Interim Measures Addendum Work Plan.

Comment 10 - (Page 14 of 23 – Para 5): Please notify the Department within 72 hours prior to stack demolition and provide the Department the plan that indicates a safe viewing location for the media, general public and personnel involved with the demolition.

Response: Asarco will notify the Department within 72 hours prior to stack demolition. Once developed, Asarco will provide the plan that indicates the safe viewing locations for media, general public and personnel involved with the demolition.

Comment 11 - (Page 15 of 23 and 17 of 23): URS states that they anticipate utilizing 25 to 35 ton rock trucks, side dump trucks, and/or 10-wheel dump trucks to haul material to the CAMU. Trucks of this size are not acceptable to drive directly on the 24 inch cushion layer. The Department believes that at a minimum, all roadways, turnouts, staging, and dumps used by equipment hauling waste must have at least 36 inches of material over the liner. The company must ensure that wastes hauled to the CAMU in this size of vehicle are not allowed to drive on the cell, but, merely dump the loads for placement in the cell by appropriately weighted and sized equipment.

Response: The haul trucks specified in the Work Plan will move material from the cleaning, demolition, and waste material storage site to the CAMU. The CAMU Design Analysis Report will govern the methods for placing the material within the CAMU cell.

Comment 12 - (Page 15 of 23): Use of a water truck to wet haul routes for dust control was not anticipated during CAMU operation [please refer to Appendix E of the CAMU design, Section 3.7.1]. The Department and EPA question the necessity of water trucks, since street sweepers are to be used to clean up dust and debris, and are concerned with infiltration impacts to the existing groundwater plumes from wetting these highly contaminated areas. Asarco should adhere to the CAMU Operating Plan.

Response: Asarco must ensure that management of material generated by the Project does not create unacceptable levels of dust. Asarco's Air Quality Permits requires the use of dust suppression methods, including the use of water, to meet this obligation. The use of water as a dust suppression will be managed to minimize infiltration. The temperatures and relative humidity experienced during the construction season will promote evaporation of the water used for dust suppression rather than infiltration. In accordance with the CAMU Design Analysis Report, street sweepers will be used on plant site and waste transport haul roads. Water dust suppression will augment the use of street sweepers as Asarco's overall dust suppressing program.

Comment 13 - (Pages 15 and 16 of 23, Section 5.6, Plug and Abandon Underground Piping): This is a corrective action activity and should be removed from this demolition work plan. Asarco must discuss plugging and abandoning with EPA.

Response: The Work Plan will indicate that the plug and abandonment of underground piping are subject to EPA approval of Asarco's February 2008 Interim Measures Addendum Work Plan.

Comment 14 - (Page 16 of 23, Section 5.7): Last paragraph, first sentence, the blast furnace flue is a portion of the EPA work plan.

Response: There is no reference to the blast furnace flue in the last paragraph, first sentence in Section 5.7, page 16 of 23.

Comment 15 - (Page 18 of 23 – Dust Control Plan): The Section has provided a copy of Asarco's Dust Control Plan (Section 6.0 through 6.8) to the Department's ARMB's Air Compliance Supervisor, Mr. Dan Walsh, for their review. ARMB may request more information about the adequacy and appropriateness of the proposed dust control measures after their review.

Response: No response required.

Comment 16 - (Page 18 of 23, Section 6.1, Application with Water during Demolition): Please see prior concerns for infiltration impacts from keeping all work areas wet with 2000-gallon water trucks. URS also anticipates use of a Dust Boss, which can "drive it to the ground."

Response: See response to comment 12. The Dust Boss utilizes a high-pressure water mist system to create an ultra fine mist that attracts dust particles and drives the **dust particles** (emphasis added) to the ground surface.

Comment 17 - (Page 20 of 23 – Water Source): What is the source of the water from the fill station?

Response: The fill station water source used for dust suppression is Upper Lake.

Comment 18 - (Page 21 of 23: Section 7.2, Description of Solid Waste Disposal Options): The list should be expanded to discuss non-CAMU-eligible solid and hazardous wastes, including used oil, PCB ballasts, and universal wastes.

Response: The expansion of Section 7.2 is not necessary. Asarco does not anticipate encountering any non-CAMU eligible wastes that other than those previously discussed in the Work Plan. Non-CAMU eligible waste will be managed in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

Comment 19 - (Page 22 of 23, Section 7.4, Labeling of Waste): For containers, labeled as "Non-Classified Waste Material; Laboratory Analysis in Progress", the label should also include a date. The text should be amended to specify an allowable time for a hazardous waste determination and appropriate disposal. The text should also indicate whether URS or Asarco will be the identified generator of the waste drums.

Response: An accumulation date will be added to the label. The waste determination and accumulation of wastes will be managed in accordance with applicable rules and

regulations. Asarco will be the generator and will be responsible for the management of the waste.

Comment 20 - (Page 22 of 23, Management of CAMU Approved Waste): The text should specify that the CAMU lifts will be applied with appropriate equipment as detailed in Appendix J, Specifications, of the CAMU design document.

Response: The placement of waste into the CAMU will be governed by the specifications set forth in the approved CAMU Design Analysis Report.

Comment 21 - (Page 23 of 23 – Special Waste Handling and Segregation): Please provide the Department written details on how the Asbestos Siding Storage Pile next to the Blast Furnace Stack will be disposed of in accordance with State ACM regulations.

Response: The asbestos siding will be transported and placed in the CAMU similarly to the asbestos that is currently staged and stored in the Direct Smelt Building, as prescribed in the currently approved Work Plan. As a non-friable asbestos, the siding will be stacked as neatly as possible, placed on a forklift, and transported to the CAMU. There it will be placed into the CAMU in the location designated for asbestos containing material. Section 7.5 of the Work Plan further describes the management of asbestos containing material.

Comment 22 - (Figures 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13): Should be modified to remove the blast furnace flue and Monier flue portions since they are not part of this state work plan or designate on these that this demolition work is subject to approval under an EPA work plan.

Response: Sheet numbers 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, and 13 will be revised to indicate that the blast furnace and Monier flue cleaning and demolition are subject to EPA approval of Asarco's February 2008 Interim Measures Addendum Work Plan.

Comment 23 - (Figure 7): Flow filling of underground utilities is a corrective action activity. The text and figure describing this work should be removed from the state work plan.

Response: Sheet numbers 7 will be revised to indicate that the flow fill of underground utilities is a corrective action activity and subject to EPA approval of Asarco's February 2008 Interim Measures Addendum Work Plan.

Comment 24 - (Figure 14): An interim permanent cap is not to be installed this year. The agencies suggest a more sturdy anchoring method be found for temporary caps than placement of sand bags.

Response: See response to comment 6 to Asarco Work Plan.



Comment 25 - (2008 Schedule): The schedule should be amended to remove activities relating to the interim permanent cap.

Response: The schedule will be revised to remove activities related to the 2008 Permanent Cover.